Demand for transparent SEZ policy

2435. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the associations of industry have demanded a transparent, consistent and sustaninable SEZ policy;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to revise the extant SEZ policy;

(c) the details of reasons for freezing/going slow regarding the SEZ's at present; and

(d) the details of SEZ's earmarked/given permission in Andhra Pradesh and the progress made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. One such representation on various issues relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was received.

(b) and (c) Various issues relating to SEZs have been placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM). Pending further directions by EGoM, fresh approvals for setting up new SEZs are presently on hold.

(d) After the special Economic Zones Act 2005 and the Special Economic Rules 2006 came into operation from 10th February 2006, 45 formal approvals for setting up SEZs in Andhra Pradesh were granted of which one proposal has since been withdrawn. Out of the 44 valid formal approvals, notifications have been issued in respect of 15 SEZs.

Revival of SSI and medium scale sick Industries

2436. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sickness in SSI and medium scale industries in the country is increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken so far, for revival of industrial sickness in a time bound manner;

(d) the number of references made to BIFR during each of the last three years; indicating the number of industries recommended so far for revival by BIFR, State-wise, particularly in Rajasthan; and

(e) the number of such sick industries revived during each of the last three year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India, the number of sick small scale industrial units in the country have declined from 1,38,811 at the end of March, 2004 to 1,26,824 at the end of March, 2006.

Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) maintains record of industries in public and private sectors which register themselves with BIFR under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). As per the information received from BIFR, the number of cases registered in 2004, 2005 and 2006 is 399, 180 and 118 respectively.

There is no increase in the number of cases declared sick during the last three years.

(c) Besides providing a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth and development of industries, steps taken for revival of sick industrial units, *inter-alia,* include setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and issue of guidelines by Reserve Bank of India to banks for financial support and amalgamation of sick units with healthy units. Wherever feasible rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of the units registered with the BIFR which *inter-alia,* include restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, Government assistance for public sector units, merger with other companies, relief and concessions in the form fo rescheduling of dues by Financial Institutions, banks and Government and change of management.

(d) As per the information received from the BIFR, the number of cases registered with them during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are 399, 180 and 118 respectively. During the same period 129 cases were recommended for revival. The State-wise list of the cases recommended for revival is given in statement-I (*See* below).

(e) During the last three years, 228 sick industrial units were revived. The State-wise list of the industrial units revived is given in the Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise list of cases recommended by BIFR during 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2006

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	No. of Units		
		2004	2005	2006
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	1	3
2	Delhi	6	1	5
3	Gujarat	3	6	3
4	Haryana	—	1	—
5	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1
6	Jammu and Kashmir	—	1	—
7	Jharkhand	2	—	—
8	Karnataka	—	5	5
9	Kerala	1	4	—
10	Madhya Pradesh	—	2	5
11	Maharashtra	13	3	9
12	Orissa	—	1	—
13	Punjab	2	1	2
14	Rajasthan	—	3	2
15	Tamil Nadu	1	7	5
16	Uttar Pradesh	5	6	2
17	West Bengal	3	2	5
	TOTAL :	38	44	47

Statement II

State-wise list of cases revived by BIFR during 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2006

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	No. of Units		
		2004	2005	2006
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	6	11
2	Assam	—	—	1
3	Chhattisgarh	1	1	—
4	Delhi	—	6	10
5	Goa	1	—	2
6	Gujarat	3	6	11
7	Haryana	3	1	3
8	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	2
9	Jharkhand	—	—	1
10	Karnataka	2	5	9
11	Kerala	1	3	3
12	Madhya Pradesh	1	2	—
13	Maharashtra	5	21	22
14	Orissa	—	1	2
15	Pondicherry	1	1	—
16	Punjab	1	4	7
17	Rajasthan	2	4	3
18	Tamil Nadu	2	6	19
19	Uttaranchal	1	—	3
20	Uttar Pradesh	—	5	4
21	West Bengal	2	4	10
	TOTAL :	29	76	123